# THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER: SKETCHED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND THE NECESSARY DIRECTIONS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION APPENDED

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## M. REU & EMIL H. RAUSCH

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## The Life of Dr. Martin Luther

Sketched for

Young People's Societies and the Necessary Directions for General Discussion Appended

By
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Done in English
By
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Chicago, III.

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## Foreword.

THE quadri-centennial of the Reformation is close at hand. It is meet and right therefore that our people, and especially our young people, should become better acquainted with Luther's life. Above all things our young people's societies should devote at least one meeting per month to the study of the life of the great reformer. This however conditions that each one of the members should possess a sketch, which the leader of the society might develop into longer discourses. In addition to this the leader needs an aid for a general discussion of this or that part of the sketch or discourse. To furnish these is the purpose of this book. They were written by the undersigned, despite much work, simply because the work must needs be done, and no one else seemed willing to undertake it. Thus they make no claims of any kind, though the latest Luther biographies have been carefully compared. If they prove useful for our young people's societies, and stimulate them to study Luther's life, they have not been written in vain.

In addition to other Luther biographies, such as H. E. Jacobs, Life of Luther; W. Wackernagel, Life of Luther; J. Koestlin, Life of Dr. Martin Luther; P. Smith, Life and Letters of Martin Luther, the leader is especially referred to the two volume work by Koestlin, Martin Luther. Sein Leben und seine Schriften. (Fifth edition by Kawerau, Berlin, 1903.)

M. Reu.

Dubuque, Iowa, October 1, 1916.



### Foreword to the English Edition.

The following sketches were originally published in the Lutheran Herald, 1915—1916, under the heading, "Topics for Young Peoples' Societies." They are here issued in book form, in the hope that they might prove of greater usefulness to a wider circle. Some few minor changes have been made, but aside from this the sketches are simply a reprint from the Lutheran Herald.

E. H. R.

Waverly, Iowa, January, 1917.



### God Prepares the World for the New Era (1).

We divide the history of the world into three great periods:

The history of the ancient world. (From the

beginning to A. D. 476.)

The history of the Middle Ages. (A. D. 476-1492 or 1517.)

The history of modern times.

The history of the Christian Church is also divided into three periods:

The history of the early Church. (From the

foundation [the first Pentecost] to A. D. 600.)

The history of the Church of the Middle Ages. (A. D. 600-1517.)

The history of the Church of the Reformation.

(From the Reformation to the present time.)

Neither secular nor Church history is dominated by chance, but in either it is Jesus Christ who governs and leads all things to their goal as determined by Him.—Read Daniel ii, especially verses 37—45; Romans xi, 33—36; Revelations xi, 15; Phil. ii, 9—11.

During the dark period of the middle ages, where the pope held full sway in Christendom, Christ did not forget His Church. Indeed darkness ruled, yet Isaiah lx, 2, was again to become true, for God is faithful. In the midst of the darkness of popery God began and made His preparations for a new era.

a) He showed to amazed humanity the greatness of the world in which His gospel was to be proclaimed.